संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) 30.6.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार दिल्ली में प्रतीक्षा सूची में 17086 व्यक्तियों के नाम दर्ज हैं।

(ख) आवेदकों को टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान नहीं किए जा सके क्योंकि कुछ क्षेत्र तकनीकी रूप से व्यवहार्य नहीं थे।

(ग) 1997-98 के दौरान प्रतीक्षा सूची का निपटान करने के लिए कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं बशर्ते कि उपस्कर तथा अन्य संसाधन उपलब्ध हों।

Gandhiji's reservation about the Tricolour Flag

*106. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Gandhiji had reservations about the Tricolour Flag as appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 1st May, 1997;

(b) whether in 1931 the National Flag Committee of the Congress consisting of Sarvashri Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh Bhai Patel, Maulana Azad and others had unanimously recommended that "the National Flag should be a Keshari or Saffron colour" (vide Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, File No. 11/27-1927 Important Pamphlets and Schemes-79F); and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider implementing the unanimous Congress Flag Committee Report, 1931, at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) Government have seen the press report in question.

It was recommended by the National Flag Committee in its report submitted in 1931 that the National Flag should be of kesari or saffron colour having on it at the left top quarter the Charkha in blue with the wheel towards the flagstaff. This is only of historical importance now. The matter relating to the National Flag was considered by the Constituent Assembly which passed a Resolution on 22nd July, 1947 adopting the National Flag in its present form. No change in the National Flag is considered necessary.

Bomb blast in local train

*107. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a powerful bomb exploded in a local train at Lehra Khana Railway Station in Bhatinda, Punjab on 8th July, 1997;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured/killed in the blast;

(c) whether Government are aware that the ISI activists in the country are trying to destabilize the Nation and planting bombs etc.;

(d) if so, whether Government have chalked out any scheme to counter the activities of ISI in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the blast at Lehra Khana Railway Station in Bhatinda, as many as 38 persons were killed while 67 persons were injured.

(c) Government is aware that Pak Intelligence Agencies and their agents have been trying to forge linkages between various militant groups based in the country, religious fundamentalists and foreign mercenaries, to widen the arc of militancy in India with a view to destabilize the country. However, due to utmost caution and vigil exercised by the personnel of State and Central Police Organisations and Army on Internal Security Duty a large number of infiltrators, terrorists and foreign mercenaries have been arrested and a large quantity of arms, ammunitions and explosives have been seized from them from time to time which have prevented many bomb

blasts and other subversive activities from taking place.

(d) and (e) To counter the activities of Pak ISI the following steps have been taken:

(i) Barbed Wire fencing and flood lighting on Indo Pak border in Punjab (except some riverine gaps) and along major parts of border in Rajasthan has been erected. On the line of control and the International Border in the J&K which is a major source of infiltration from across the border, deployment of Army and BSF units have been strengthened on infiltration routes and in the interior areas as a second line of defence.

(ii) Effective vigilance all along the Indo-Pak border is maintained through patrolling by BSF with additional support from state police.

(iii) Militant cadres in J&K have suffered heavy casualities and many outfits have lost their top ranking leaders. In Punjab a break-through has been achieved in many recent cases and several suspects of left over Punjab militant groups who have cross-border linkages have been arrested.

(iv) Regular exchange of intelligence takes place between the States on the one hand and between these states and the Central Intelligence agencies on the other.

(v) Extra vigil is being maintained at public places such as Bus Stands, Railway Stations, Cinema Halls etc. and general public have been alerted about suspicious objects lying unattended at these places.

(vi) Vigilance along Indo-Nepal border is also being strengthened.

उत्तर प्रदेश के तराई क्षेत्र से सिख किसानों को विस्थापित किया जाना

*108. **श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि देश के अनेक भागों में, विशेषकर उत्तर प्रदेश के तराई क्षेत्र में, सिख किसानों को भूमि परिसीमन के नाम में उन्हें उनकी भूमि से बेदखल कर विस्थापित करने की कार्यवाही चल रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की भी जानकारी है कि इन किसानों ने इन इलाकों की बंजर भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाने में कड़ी मेहनत की थी; यदि हां, तो अब उन्हें विस्थापित करने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) उत्तर प्रदेश तथा देश के अन्य भागों के सिख किसानों को विस्थापित होने से बचाने हेतु सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री किंजरापू येरन्नायडु): (क) से (घ) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और इसे सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा।

Persons responsible in Purulia Arms Dropping Case

*109. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anybody has been held responsible for the callous indifference shown in the arms dropping in Purulia by officials of Home, Defence and Civil Aviation Departments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation, which has been entrusted with the investigation of the Purulia Arms Drop Case, has informed that enquiries have been conducted as regards lapses on the part of various agencies/departments at Delhi, Varanasi, Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai. Though preliminary reports regarding the lapses committed by various